

MINUTES FROM MH WORKGROUP MEETING
Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Recorded by Leslie Weisman, LCSW
Aftercare Coordinator, Arlington CSB

Welcome and Introductions were made. Special welcome to MH Workgroup Consultant, Joan Durman, Ph.D. Dr. Durman will be available to consult with the workgroup through 7/31/03.

Updates since last MH Workgroup Meeting – The Steering Committee met on 3/20/03. Updates were provided at that meeting from the Structural Workgroup and MH Workgroup. The former had decided that the latter could benefit from a consultant to assist in analyzing data and pulling together the report for the Commissioner.

Ongoing collaboration with the private hospitals was discussed. There was a meeting with the private hospitals facilitated by Jim Thur and Lynn DeLacy on 3/26.

Review of the “Guidance for the Completion of Regional Partnership Planning Process” document dated 3/18/03. First report due to Commissioner on 8/1/03; second report due on 8/2/04. Discussed implications of project spanning next 18 months plus possible need for more frequent meetings.

DAD committee and Aftercare Coordinators met on 3/24 to review proposals for additional private bed purchase dollars. Context for the discussion was restructuring of the community based system of care.

Updates from Jim Thur and Lynn DeLacy – discussion of community forums which are still ongoing. NVMHI consumer described the forums at the hospital. One was just for the patient population and the other was for the community. The community forum was not well attended. Main themes were need for more vocational training, concerns around medications.

Wendy Gradison updated on the forum held at PRS. She reports that around 15 people attended. Much discussion around employment supports and medications.

The forum at Mt. Vernon was not well attended; focus was on older adult MH.

Update on meeting with private hospitals. All community hospitals with exception of Loudoun Memorial were represented. There will be a follow up meeting on 4/23. The hospitals were interested in the Levels of Treatment grid which staff at NVMHI had compiled. They will be sent a final version for review and discussion. They may ask for more training. They do not have a common language for the acuity levels described in the matrix.

Jim requested update from Lou Rosato on private bed purchase numbers this past month. Lou reports that there were 51 private bed purchase admissions in March and 40 admissions to NVMHI. This is the highest bed usage in the past 57 months.

Review of proposals on additional private bed purchase dollars: The group estimates that there is approximately \$301,757 in private bed purchase dollars available for new uses. Proposals will be written up by Sharon Jones and submitted to the DAD Steering Committee. Proposals include funding the two CSB designated beds at Mt. Vernon Hospital; possible funding of two Master’s level FTEs in Arlington to augment clinical services at the detox and crisis care facilities; evaluate ability to augment or increase intensity of services at Pr.William CSB’s Supported Living town homes, some discussion of HUD run intensive home in Fairfax, eventual regional participation in Fairfax’s crisis facility once the program is increased to 16 beds.

Final Review of Levels of Treatment Grid from NVMHI: The grid was finalized with a few minor revisions. It will be presented to the private hospitals at the meeting on 4/23. The private hospitals had discussed the challenges they have in managing aggressive patients. Many of the hospitals are small and the staffing does not allow for management of potentially violent clients. NVMHI staff and CSB staff will be present at this meeting.

Data Collection and Analysis: Discussed the data that is needed in order to submit the final report to the Commissioner. The workgroup will gather all necessary data and give it to Dr. Durman for analysis. We will attempt to gather relevant hospitalization data for the past 2-3 years and then projecting through 2010. The Workgroup will submit DAD reports on private bed purchase, we will utilize the PRAIS system to gather other state hospital data, FIMS for forensic data.

A second step in data collection will be identifying trends in usage of hospitals by level and type of inpatient service provided and by client characteristics.

Additional pieces of data to consider: differences in hospital utilization based on jurisdiction; exploration of different funding streams. Also, we need to think creatively in terms of restructuring/reinvesting, e.g. reallocating state or CSB dollars to create more community options for consumers is one possibility to consider.

Next Steps – Meeting Plan for April – July 2003

Thursday, April 10 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Forensic Meeting at NVMHI
(Forensic coordinators, Aftercare Coordinators, Central Office Forensic staff)

Thursday, April 10 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. DAD Coordinating Committee at NVMHI

Thursday, April 10 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Steering Committee at NVMHI

Thursday, April 24 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Aftercare Coordinators Meeting (Room 836A, Pennino Building, Fairfax County)

Thursday, April 24 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. MH Workgroup Meeting (Room 836A, Pennino Building, Fairfax County)

Tuesday, May 20 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. MH Workgroup Meeting (Room 4/5 Fairfax County Government Center)

Thursday, June 5 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. MH Workgroup Meeting (Location TBD)

Thursday, June 17 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. MH Workgroup Meeting (Room 4/5 Fairfax County Government Center)

Tuesday, July 15 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. MH Workgroup Meeting (Room 4/5 Fairfax County Government Center)